



## **National Transportation Safety Board**

Washington, D.C. 20594  
Office of Marine Safety

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**Date:** 6/15/06

**Place:** Boston, MA

**Person Interviewed:** CG Cmdr. Tom Miller

**Interview Conducted By:** Liam Larue, NTSB  
Jay Spence, MBL  
Lt. Cahli Carothers, USCG

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cmdr. Miller, assigned to Sector Boston, was interviewed regarding the 6/12/06 fire on the Massachusetts, on which he was a passenger. The text that follows is not a verbatim record of the conversation, but a summary of the recorded interview. Interview was conducted at USCG Sector Boston.

### **INTERVIEW**

- 15 years in marine safety field
- prior to that was shipboard engineer
- technical background in naval architecture and marine engineering
- rides Massachusetts everyday
- was on run during fire
- has been riding Massachusetts 2 years in August
- Left work at 1530, caught 1600 boat
- all normal until Long Island Bridge
- at bridge, vessel slowed down. he assumed it was for other traffic
- noticed crew on main deck by engine spaces
- at this point, he could see smoke
- shortly thereafter, capt made PA announcement of engine room fire, and directed the pax to go to the upper deck
- pax were relatively calm

- thought things went quite smoothly
- Laura approached within 10 minutes, and a few minutes later all pax were transferred to Laura
- all pax donned lifejackets before the ship to ship transfer
- once all pax transferred, Laura pulled away
- thought they departed Massachusetts at 1635
- called CG Sector Boston on his cell, told them the BFD fire boat was needed, he thought this time was 1645
- once pax had been sent to upper deck, he went to wheelhouse to mention to capt to shut down engine ventilation, which the capt already had done
- Quincy police already onscene
- Mass state police also onscene
- he asked capt, when he went to wheelhouse, if they had fire suppression system, which they didn't
- the capt then visually showed him that the panel switches were in the off position
- no past problems on this run while he was on it
- felt crew did a good job
- he felt initially the crew were a little shaken
- pax were on upper aft deck during fire, he felt in retrospect, it would probably have been better to keep them on the forward end of the upper deck in case of an explosion

END OF INTERVIEW